

871.

Co., and Hogan, Holman and Co., and Co. On the leases of Webb, Cohen,

work is being about a number of men being employed about the mine, and the fact of the reef at a considerable depth, it has, while in their occupation, to be payable to a depth of 45 feet, several given a good return from time to time, and two feet of stone and a large body of stone the whole way from two to four feet thick, carrying, as Mr. Hegan, the same prospect the whole way from the reef to the surface, and that this reef of stone is the same as that of reef. Messrs. Holman vigorously prosecuting work on their ten-truck having been taken for sinking a shaft further represented by Mr. Hegan, a large body of stone is being raised from the bottom of the mine, and from the stone they can raise at a small cost, therefore based upon the trial they have prepared a high price for the stone, and the reef is the Western, natural limestone.

as it is generally known. This ality syde to the west of Lindberg and partly have claim on men's ground, and a lease of five acres, to be used for the machinery site, is the William C. Greer, who owns the Green Valley, quantities of quartz are being crushed. Lindberg is sending several tons to be crushed machine, Tambora; it is expected to prove to a depth of 75 feet to be the ton of quartz. This reef, like the one at the mouth of the Green Valley Creek, cropping out on the surface carrying gold. There are numerous leases along some of which shafts are being sunk.

The site chosen for the crushing machine is on the south side of the bank of the Green Valley Creek; it is ready for the erection of the machinery and the building along the creek in connection with the site.

Telling into consideration the scope of the work to be done on the reefs, it offers ample inducements for the pursuit of capital.

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Whatsoever were the intentions of the Congress in passing the amendment of law with amendment of it is injudicious, if not a mistake, to enlighten them, and to their representatives and to lawyers.

11th October. JOHN HENRY COMBING AND CLOTHING

TO THE EDITOR OF THE MERCANTILE MAGAZINE

SIR,—I am glad that my former letter concerning some remarks (although written very hastily and without any special preparation) has been noticed; but I am very sorry that I should have understood and misinterpreted by Mr. Toynbee's letter, and that I should have been so ignorant. I may not possess the power to give as plain a language as I wish, but I trust I know rather better than to give a false impression.

Having spent some years by the board of a woollen shire wool warehouse I ought to know something of the subject, and I am glad to find that I did not advocate to have all the wool as here, as it is there. I still assert that it is a mistake to have the combing and carding done at present the fleece only are separated into two classes, the so-called combing wool and a second class, the so-called carding wool, and that the latter is useless to the spinner, and suitable only to the weaver.

in fact, I have sorted bales with "combs" there, in which not 28 per cent. was wool, I feel that, such being the case, they cannot have confidence on what is printed on the bales. Shippers to be more careful for their own sake. Daniel Crocker's letter, in the *Harvard* of 1891, is the following, which fully bears out what I have just written: "The bales were outside of the pack, but little seemed to be cut by the buyer; but in a few places, found very badly sorted, and not marked as such from one end, and a large mass thrown on the floor, and such a discovery excited the anger of the buyers, for all offending ones were much cut and pulled, the wool and loss of the owner was considerable. It is to be hoped that the buyer is so fully, and that, if the fleece were care-

[illegible]

to the com-
amendment,
I fear that this
will wreck the
separately, each
I am able to
ration.
Honors are con-
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similar to that
Mr. Jastrow
the clauses are
are reprehensive
in 1853. By Mr.
of a wealthy
of 18, 68 Acts
the Acts
remains, the
to the people
to you people
are upon you!"

When the Queen visited
Dundee in 1844, the Town Council provided a piece
red cloth for her Majesty to walk upon in passing
from the bannan to the castle. At the
subsequent meeting a discussion arose as to
what should be done with the cloth,
when a learned councillor proposed to prestore
it as a memento mori of the Royalty in
American politicians—one from Kansas,
one from Louisiana—meeting on a Mississippi
steamer, they got into a dispute as to which had
the best system of education. The Kansas
brought the matter to a test by betting ten dollars
that the other could not repeat the Lord's Prayer.
"Done!" said the Kansas man; and after a squit
after a moment's reflection, he began in a slow and
steady voice:

"Now I lay me down to sleep,
I pray the Lord
"Yes, yes; stop, stop, you have it," said the other.
"you need not go on"—and landed over the stakes.
A Glasgow merchant had gone one Sabbath to hear
a candidate in one of the city churches, of which the
Town Council holds the freehold, and who was
speaking with high commendation of the sermon,
when some one happened to ask, "What was the
text?" The councillor, whose knowledge of Scripture
was rather scanty, and who was not used to making
the greater part of the time, was taken a little aback.
"The text?" he said, "the text. What was it
again?" It began with—"Now"—now is—"now
is the time," that sit—"now is the time," and
the hour." An Oxford undergraduate, when asked
who was the first King of Israel, was so fortunate
as to stand up upon the name of Saul. He saw
that he had been mistaken in wishing to know the
reach

examines how intimate his knowledge of the Scriptures was, he added confidentially "Saul—also called Paul." One candidate for a degree stated the substance of Paul's sermon at Athens to be, crystal clear for the space of two hours. "Great is Diana of the Ephesians!" He was asked to give the parable of the good Samaritan. He said, "So with terrible accuracy it came to the place where he says to the innkeeper, "When I come again, I will repay thee." Here the unlucky examinee added, "This he said knowing that he should meet his face no more." Another when called upon to trace the connection between the Old and New Testament, referred to the circumstance that Peter, with his sword, cut off the ear of the prophet Malachi. An examinee was called upon to give an account of the death of Jezabel. He evidently felt sure of his ground, for he prefaced his account by a remark about the importance of adhering as closely as possible to Scriptural language. He then proceeded as follows: "And as he passed through the gate of the city, there looked out upon him two persons appointed for the purpose. And he said unto them, 'Throw her down.' So they threw her down. And he said, 'Do it a second time.' And they did it a second time, And he said, 'Do it a third time.' And they did it a third time, and they did it unto seven times; yes, unto seventy times seven. Last of all the woman died also. And they took up of the fragments that were left seven baskets full." The Ragged School boy, on being asked what was the name of Jehonathan's mother, replied, "I don't know, and won't, more. I don't care."

A "MATTER-OF-FACT" MAN.—When Dr. Braden was reciter of Ethiam, in the text he one day took to preach from was "Who art thou?" After reading the text, he made (as was his custom) a pause for the congregation to reflect upon the words, when a gentleman in military dress, marching very sedately up the middle aisle of the church, supposing it to be a question addressed to him, to the surprise of all present, replied, "I am Sir an officer of the 17th Foot, on a recruiting party here; and having brought my wife and family with me, I wish to become acquainted with the neighbouring gentry and clergy."

THE YOUNG MAN OF MARRIAGE.—Supposed a man and a girl were married—the man thirty-five years old, the girl five—this makes the man seven times as old as the girl; they live together until the girl is ten years—this makes the man forty years old, the girl four times as old as the girl; they still live until she is fifteen, the man being forty-five—this makes the man three times as old; they still live until she is thirty—this makes the man seventy years old, the girl ten times as old, and so on. Now, how long would they have to live to make the girl as old as the man?

AN OLD PROJECT AND A NEW ONE.

"A Penny well Bestowed." Such is the title of a folio sheet of two pages, printed and circulated in London in the year 1680, a copy of which recently found its way into the possession of a dealer in waste paper, and from his possession passed into ours for a consideration, more in accordance with its interest and curiosity than with its physical weight. The full title runs, "A Penny well Bestowed; or, a Brief Account of the New Design contrived for the great Increase of Trade, and Ease of Correspondence, between the Great Advantage of the Inhabitants of all Sorts, by conveying of Letters or Parcels under a Pound Weight, to and from all parts within the Cities of London and Westminster, and the Out Parishes within the Weekly Bills of Mortality, for One Penny." The colophon, more words, "London: Printed for the Undertakers, by Thomas James, at the Printing Press in Mincing Lane, April, 1680." It was said in high authority, more than two thousand years ago, that "there was nothing new under the sun." And we of the present day, who owe so deep a debt of gratitude to Sir Rowland Hill for the boon of the penny post, will admit without derogation from his merits, or the wish to deprive him of any portion of the credit fairly belonging to him, that the germ of his great idea is to be found in an anonymous publication thrown upon the world before he was born. Possibly Sir Rowland never heard of it, but he can remember, as Coleridge recommends us in all cases where plagiarism is charged and cannot be proved, "that there are such things as fountains in the human mind, and that every stream we see flowing does not necessarily proceed from a perforation made in some other man's tank." But even if the great postal reformer of the nineteenth century borrowed his thought from a predecessor in the seventeenth, none the less are our thanks due to him for converting into a living fact, which was formerly an unproductive fancy, just as we render homage to the practical genius of James Watt for the improvement of the steam-engine, which others had invented, but had not been able to turn to account.

The author of "A Penny well Bestowed," like other original thinkers, was in advance of his time. "There is nothing," he said, "that tends more to the increase of trade and business than a speedy, cheap, and safe way of intelligence, much being obstructed and more retarded in all places where that is wanting." For as money, like the blood in natural bodies, gives life to trade by its circulation, so, in the same way, like the vital spirits, gives it sense and motion. And the more that such abound in any place the more doth that place increase in riches, strength, and vigour." This was said in 1680. It was said again, in other words, and with higher authority, in 1838, when Sir Rowland Hill's plan was before the House of Commons. The first reformer, however, knew his public too well to imagine that his project would meet with immediate or cordial acceptance. "It is not," he wrote, "to be expected in the present age, that any new design can be contrived for the public good, without meeting many rash censures and impediments from the foolish and malicious, therefore 'twas not likely this should escape the common fate; yet we hope to all the reasonable and candid, who are willing to understand their own interest, that this paper may be satisfactory." The design was to provide means for the delivery of letters and parcels throughout the metropolis hourly every day, except on six days in the month, until 9 at night—fifteen deliveries in all, which, next to the modern Post Office, with all its improvements it has made during the last thirty-three years, has not yet attained. Whatever may have been the opinion of the public on this scheme, the opinion of the Post Office authorities was decidedly hostile, not only to the carriage of parcels of a pound in weight, but to letters at a penny. The Post Office would not let the scheme itself, nor allow any one else to do so. Nevertheless, in 1683 a penny post was established for London and the district within the walls of mortality, but without the frequency of delivery which was the next to the cheapness, was the life and soul of the projected improvement. The Post Office at that time was in its infancy. Its revenues were farmed out to a contractor, who paid the Government a round sum for the monopoly of conveying letters, and he levied such rates upon the public as enabled him to make a profit by his bargain—rates that were regulated upon a scale of distance, and upon the actual paucity, not upon the probable multiplicity, of correspondence. The penny post was never extended to the provinces. Owing to mismanagement, it soon ceased to be remunerative in the metropolis, and was replaced by a twopenny rate, which remained in operation until Sir Rowland Hill swept it away, within the memory of living men who have not yet reached the grand climacteric.

The wisdom of our ancestors is not always to be sneered at, as this document and its history show, and it strikes us that the idea of conveying packages, a pound in weight, to and from every part of the metropolis, might be advantageously carried into effect in our time, certain extensions and limitations which we proceed to explain. Mr. Lowe, our present Chancellor of the Exchequer, granted a boon to newspaper proprietors and to newspaper readers, which latter class already includes a majority of the population, and will, it is likely, under the operation of the new Education Act, include at no very remote time nearly the whole community, by enacting that any newspaper weighing six ounces and under might pass through the Post Office to the remotest ends of the realm for the sum of one halfpenny. This is nearly halfway towards the concession which we propose to ask, namely, that the Post Office should convey any printed book, now or old, to any part of the country at the uniform rate of one penny per pound weight, and of twopenny for two pounds, and under. The boon bestowed upon political and periodical literature by the halfpenny rate is universally acknowledged; and if we consider, as has been said of old, that the chief glory of any country is its literature, we think the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Postmaster-General would do well to devote their attention to the reform we advocate in the interest alike of authors, of publishers, of readers, and of the revenue. To purchase a new book in London, the great mart and emporium of literature, as of everything else, is easy enough, but to purchase a new book in a provincial town, or a village is a matter of time, difficulty, and unnecessary expense. The retail book-seller, if there be one in the place, which is not the case in the villages, has to write to the London or Edinburgh publisher for the volume which the purchaser requires, and it is generally a month before the order is completed. The publisher makes up his monthly,

and sometimes fortnightly, parcel, and the purchaser has to await his convenience. By means of the penny postage rate for a pound weight of literature, the reader and the author, or at all events the reader and the publisher, would be brought into direct and immediate communication, without the intervention of the costly and dilatory middle-man, to the very great advantage of the producer and the consumer. The middle-man is generally a miscellaneous dealer in stationery, nick-nacks, newspapers, and periodicals, as well as in books, and will not always take the trouble to write a letter to a publisher for a single volume, to oblige a stranger or an infrequent customer. Political literature, great though its claims may be upon the favour of a liberal and progressive Government, such as that of Great Britain, is not the only branch of literature which requires a free dissemination than existing agencies supply. It does not include history, the divinity, the science, the romance, and the poetry, which are the glorious heritage of our people; and which, quite as much as the current history and opinion contained in the newspapers, deserve to be spread over the land by the same convenient and well-regulated machinery that supplies us with our letters of business or affection.

No doubt the project will not at first recommend itself to the favour of the retail dealer in books, more than railways and steam-engines recommended themselves to the steam-engineer, and the railway to the stage-coachman, as to the tallow-chandler, or the spinning-jenny to the hand-loom weaver. As our old friend of 1680 says, in reference to the porters and other people who fancied they might lose employment and bread by the adoption of his larger project, "If it were granted to be prejudicial to the porters (which I do not allow), yet the lesser ought to yield to the greater, and the private to the public good, seeing that in all well-regulated governments the public good was never forced to stoop to private convenience. For if so, printers and gun-makers have been suppressed for copyists and fletcherers (bowmen), and public waterworks for the sake of tankard-bearers." The question is one solely for the decision of the Government and the Post Office, and we are glad to have the opportunity of calling public attention to it in these columns.—*All the Year Round.*

REPORT OF THE ROYAL COMMISSION ON THE CONTAGIOUS DISEASES ACTS.

(From the Times.)
A PERIOD of the Parliamentary session has now been reached at which Ministers are advisedly lightening the ship by throwing overboard measures even of the most urgent practical importance. This, therefore, is not the time when the Government can be expected to initiate legislation on a question so delicate and dubious as that involved in the Contagious Diseases Acts. Something more than the hesitating Report of a divided Royal Commission would be needed to compel such inopportune and hasty action. We are well satisfied, therefore, with the reply given by the Home Secretary to Mr. Baines on Monday night, announcing the intention of the Government to postpone legislation for the present, and intimating that the substitution of a new statute for those now in force is a matter requiring the "deep and anxious consideration" of Parliament. The report of the Commission, which has just been published, appears to justify Mr. Baines's caution, and, when supplemented by the evidence not yet printed, will furnish members with the materials for arriving at a conclusion. Such a consideration is most essential to any attempt at a settlement of this difficult subject. We cannot allow it to be disposed of on the mere report of a commission to which seven separate dissenters have been appended. The report itself, although a useful document as a summary of the evidence, loses much of its weight when we learn that sixteen out of twenty-three commissioners decline, in a greater or less degree, to assent to its practical recommendations. One thing, however, has been satisfactorily established by the inquiry. The illegitimate character of the agitation against the Acts, the groundless nature of the charges brought against their administration, and the mischievous tendency of the arguments popularly used by the advocates of their repeal, have been conclusively proved.

Up to the year 1864 no endeavour had been made by Parliament to control the ravages of these terrible diseases. But in that year the Acts of the Army and Navy appeared to point out the necessity of some measures, which should check at least the propagation of disease among our soldiers and sailors. The Contagious Diseases Act of 1864 provided for the surgical inspection, in eleven garrison and seaport towns, of the persons supposed to communicate disease. In 1866 this Act was repealed, and periodical examinations, with enforced detention in the case of the persons diseased in the specific districts, was sanctioned by a new Statute. In 1869 a supplementary Act strengthened these provisions, and extended them to a number of new stations. Meantime a powerful organisation was started to promote the extension of these Acts throughout the country, and some of the most eminent medical authorities, recognising the evils inflicted on the national health, and in numerous cases on innocent infants, by the spread of disease, favoured the application of the restrictive policy. On the other hand, an opposition to the Acts arose, prompted by many different motives.

The conclusions arrived at by the Commissioners were divided into two classes. As to the working of the existing Acts, they emphatically state that no satisfactory proof has been given of the allegations, so frequently and loudly put forward by the opponents of the system, that the law has been accustomed to use their power wrongfully and indiscriminately. No accusation of this kind has been maintained, and the failure of the excitable orators, male and female, who have "stumped" the country on this mission to establish any of their reckless charges, ought to teach the constituencies what value should be set on these extravagant statements. It is furthermore admitted by the Commissioners that the Acts have everywhere been subjected to an unfortunate perversion, and that the soldiers and sailors usually consorting with them. It is acknowledged that the medical officers of the Army and Navy are, almost to a man, in favour of the maintenance and, if possible, of the extension of the Acts. The Commissioners even go so far as to say, that, "were the physical aspect of the question alone to guide our consideration, we should feel it our duty to recommend the extension of the system. But in the moral and political bearings" of the legislation "the question the Commissioners have" "found more doubt and difficulty."

They admit, however, that the Acts have not only rendered the districts under their jurisdiction healthier, but have diminished the number of unfortunate persons subject to their operation; that they have rendered the streets in these garrison towns and seaports more safe and decent, and have suppressed almost completely the audacious and demonstrative allurements to vice. It is even admitted that the hospitals maintained under the system have been used as most effective instruments for promoting the moral reformation of the patients. It is allowed that under the Acts the amount of vice has diminished in the inspected districts, and that the system exercises a decidedly deterrent effect, keeping many hundreds of possible recruits out of the ranks of sin and misery. Against these advantages we have to place the outrage inflicted on public morality by what is called the State's recognition of vice, the fraction of constitutional liberty by the arrest of street-walkers on suspicion, and the increase of clandestine vice. The last possible point the Commissioners dispose of very shortly, but they hesitate over the two former; they conclude that the State, by ordering the periodical examination of persons subjected to the operation of the Act, the sanitary advantage of which is affirmed, does in some sort recognise and license their unhappy mode of living. They propose, therefore, to abolish these examinations, and to restore the Act of 1864, which only authorised the inspection of persons suspected of being diseased. It will be observed that this recommendation is made entirely on the strength of the so-called "moral" objection to the Act; that their sanitary value is conclusively affirmed, and that the allegations of abuse have been set aside as groundless. It is very desirable that public men should make themselves acquainted with the evidence on which they will vote, should the question be raised next year. Seven members of the Commission sign a dissent, strongly urging the impolicy of the proposed repeal. Six members protest against the proposed repeal of the Act of 1864. On such a divided judgment no action need be taken until those who are responsible for a change or an affirmation of a system which has achieved admirable sanitary results have arrived at an unbiased decision, after a full review of the evidence so laboriously collected.

MARRIAGE OF GEORGE IV. WITH MRS. FITZHERBERT.

In an account of the defence of Queen Caroline given by Lord Brougham in his "Life and Times," the following particulars occur respecting the marriage of George IV. with Mrs. Fitzherbert.
"Independent of our support from the people, and even upon the supposition of the case appearing against us, I had a sure resource—a course which could not have failed, even if the bill had actually passed the Lords. When I saw that the House was opening the defence was supposed to mean receding, and no doubt it included that. We had abundant evidence of the most unexceptionable kind that the King was innocent of any offence against the King; indeed an unquestionable one against the King; indeed an unquestionable one against the King. [Case given in foot-note.] But we never could be certain of this proving decisive with both Houses; and it was necessary to have had sufficient to make the King give up the idea. I knew that all the facts of his conduct with Lady Jersey and others were universally known, and he cared little for their being proved for or against him. When I saw that the House was opening the defence was supposed to mean receding, and no doubt it included that. 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